CITY OF SAN JOSE
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

Watson Park — Status Update

June 7, 2006

Dear Resident:

Soil and water samples have been taken at more than 130 locations in the Watson Park area by the City's consultant, URS Corporation. Included are samples taken on seven residential properties on Terrace Drive and one residential property on Empire Street (with advance owner approvals). San Jose Unified School District has also been most cooperative in granting permission for soil sampling at Empire Gardens School. Although results from the tests are still being received from the laboratories doing the chemical analyses, it appears that the horizontal boundaries of the contamination have generally been identified and lie mostly within City property. This is consistent with where the City expected to find burn ash, based on the 1930s aerial photographs of the Watson Park area.

JUNE 21st BARBECUE (6:30 – 8:30 PM) at Empire Gardens School

To thank the community for its patience during this work and provide an informal setting for asking questions about the park, the City is hosting a community barbecue. We'll gather in the school courtyard by N. 22nd and E. Empire Streets. Hope to see you there.

Timeline	
June 21	Community BBQ
July 17	CPAC Meeting
Aug/Sep	Community Meeting on Park Planning
Aug/Sep	DTSC Community Meeting on Report Findings

NEXT STEPS: Park Maintenance

With the end of the rainy season, the grounds at Watson Park are scheduled for spring cleaning during the week of June 12. Afterward, the grounds will routinely be mowed, watered, and weeded throughout the dry season.

NEXT STEPS: Environmental Investigation

Waste Characterization Report: In late August or September, this report will be released to the public by the City of San Jose upon approval by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the lead regulatory agency. The report will describe the final horizontal boundaries of the former landfill and the depth at which contaminants are found.

Cleanup Plan: This winter, based on the findings of the Waste Characterization Report, a draft Cleanup Plan will be prepared by the City and its consultants. Once this draft is reviewed by DTSC, it will be made available for public review and comment. DTSC will consider all comments received prior to finalization of the Cleanup Plan. What the plan contains depends on where contaminants are located, their depth, the potential uses for that area of the park, and other factors.

NEXT STEPS: Park Restoration

An initial set of park layout options will be presented to the Watson Park CPAC (Capital Project Advisory Committee) in July and to the community in August for review, along with potential funding requirements associated with each. The layouts will be based on goals validated by the community at meetings over the past several months, including their "likes and dislikes" about the current Watson Park facilities. The overall goals are to:

- Re-establish an open, park-like feeling throughout the site,
- Emphasize the Coyote Creek edge, and
- Re-establish and enhance views from high points along park edges to the creek edge.

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The final design will depend in some measure on the findings of the Waste Characterization Report and Cleanup Plan described above. The park planning and environmental investigation teams will be working closely together over the summer to bring the best possible choices forward for community review and further input.

Currently, it appears that all park layouts will depict the same recreational facilities that are in the park today, including construction of the Skate Park. In addition, planning will continue for a segment of the Coyote Creek trail for the area as well as a pedestrian bridge link to the trail. A new site is being found for the service yard currently used by Our City Forest. It is not yet clear whether the community gardens can remain in the park.

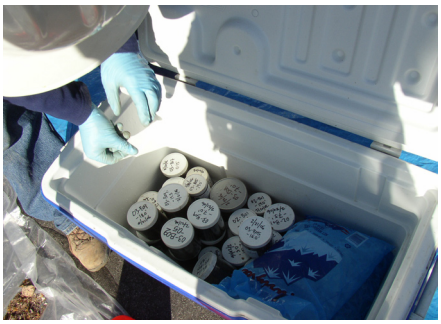
SOIL SAMPLING PHOTOS

For those who missed the opportunity to see the soil sampling process, here are some photos taken during the work.

A Geoprobe® was used to extract soil cores from the surface level down to native soil.

A Geoprobe® was used to take water samples.

Soil sleeves were opened, visually inspected and logged.



Samples were carefully labeled and stored for later lab analysis.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- **Website:** www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/watsonpark/WatsonReports.asp
- **City:** Ed Bautista, (408) 535-3570 (Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services)
- **DTSC:** Kim Rhodes, (916) 255-3651 (Public Participation Program)